CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication:	f43432
Other known title(s):	Not stated
OFLC ref:	1000029.000
Medium:	Computer Image File Printout
Publisher:	Not stated
Country of origin:	New Zealand
Language:	English
Applicant:	Commissioner of Police
Classification:	Objectionable.
Descriptive note:	None
Display conditions:	None
Date of entry in Register:	16 February 2010
Date of direction to issue a label:	No direction to issue a label has been issued

Summary of reasons for decision:

The computer image file printout is deemed objectionable because it promotes and supports the exploitation of children and young persons for sexual purposes.

The publication is a printout of a "screenshot" that has captured a webcam image focusing on a young teenage girl's naked lower body and genitals. The printout also shows part of an online conversation between the subject of the image and a young man. The availability of this material is likely to encourage a sexual interest in children and young people and strengthen the idea that they may be used for adult sexual gratification. The effect is to encourage the sexual exploitation of children and young people.

The classification of this publication interferes with the right to freedom of expression set out in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. However, this is an outcome that is consistent with Parliament's intention and is a reasonable limitation on the freedom of expression. The classification reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to protect young and vulnerable people from sexual exploitation.